

KENTUCKY HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE ADVISORY BOARD

QUALIFIED HEALTH PLANS SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2014

Call to Order and Roll Call

The eleventh meeting of the Qualified Health Plans Subcommittee was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2014, via conference call. Deborah Moessner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m., and the Secretary called the roll.

Subcommittee Members Present: Deborah Moessner , Chair (by phone); Jill Bell (by phone), Dr. Joe Ellis (by phone), Carl Felix (by phone), Dr. Michael Huang (by phone), Bob McFalls (by phone), and Ramona Osborne (by phone). Greg Baker, Jeffrey Bringardner, Ruth Brinkley, Julia Costich, Nancy Galvagni, Shelley Gast, Donna Ghobadi, Dr. Amanda Howell, Dr. Andrew Slavik, and Joe Smith were not present at the meeting.

Staff Present: Carrie Banahan, Miriam Fordham, Bill Nold, and Chandra Venettozzi.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the February 18, 2014, meeting as submitted, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

Plan Limits for 2015

Bill Nold, Deputy Executive Director, Office of the Kentucky Health Benefit Exchange (KHBE), provided background information to the subcommittee on the options for expanding the number of plans offered by issuers on the Exchange for the 2015 plan year. Currently, issuers are limited to offering four plans per metal level. Mr. Nold said that in drafting the current administrative regulation which limits the number of plans to four per metal level, the KHBE was concerned about the near term – plan year 2014. The KHBE wants to expand consumers' plan choices for 2015 while trying to strike the balance between having enough choice and determining the number of plans that would allow for choice but not run the risk of adverse selection.

Mr. Nold informed the subcommittee of the approaches that the federally-facilitated marketplace (FFM) and other states have used in determining the choice of plans to be offered to consumers as outlined in a brief published by The Commonwealth Fund. Basically, three approaches have been used in determining plan choice: limiting the number of plans or benefit designs, standardizing benefit designs, and adopting a meaningful difference standard. The FFM has used a meaningful difference standard and other states have used one or a combination of approaches including setting a limit on the number of plans as the KHBE has done.

Ms. Moessner suggested that rather than using the approach of determining a meaningful difference, the KHBE should determine what the increase in the number of plans offered by issuers per metal level should be for 2015. Carl Felix said that he agreed that the meaningful difference approach was not appealing. Kelli Rodman, a representative with Humana, said that expanding the number of plans per metal level to five or six would be acceptable but expanding the offerings further might be confusing for consumers.

Mr. Nold asked the members if expanding the number of plans per metal levels offered by issuers to six or eight for plan year 2015 would be feasible. After some discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to recommend that the KHBE expand the limit on the number of plans offered by an issuer from four per metal level to eight per metal level for the 2015 plan year and to revisit the issue for the 2016 plan year. The recommendation will be put forth at the next Advisory Board meeting.

Other Business

Ms. Banahan informed the subcommittee members that the KHBE will not be pursuing Bridge Plans for the 2016 plan year.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.